28th January 1929]

(b) whether the attention of the Government Inspector of Railways has been drawn to the inconveniences and dangers the passengers are subjected to on account of the ground level platform in Ranipet station of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, and whether the Government will draw the attention of the authorities concerned as to the desirability of constructing a raised platform as early as possible ;

(c) whether passengers are put to inconvenience in purchasing tickets owing to the location of the booking office upstairs at the Jalarpet Railway station ; and whether the Government propose to direct the Railway Company to keep the booking office on the ground floor ; and

(d) whether, in view of the fact that prisoners intended for the Torappadi Jail have to be escorted occasionally all the way from Katpadi to Torappadi, a distance of six miles by walk, the Government propose to instruct the South Indian Railway to open a station at Torappadi which will also be very convenient for the inhabitants of the surrounding villages ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Senior Government Inspector of Railways has been consulted in the matter and he does not consider that any alteration is necessary.

(*c*) The Senior Government Inspector of Railways has reported that there have been some complaints but he and the Agent, Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, consider that the location of the booking office upstairs is the most convenient and suitable arrangement.

(*d*) No complaints have been received of any inconvenience caused by the absence of a station at Torappadi and the Government see no necessity to address the South Indian Railway authorities as suggested.

Mr. C. VENKATARANGAM NAYUDU :— " Will the hon. the Finance Member be pleased to forward the answer to the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway for favourable consideration ? "

Books and Publications

Alleged seizure by the Police of copies of Bharathi's songs.

*1023 *Q.*—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the City Police have taken possession of a large number of copies of Bharathi's songs under a search warrant issued by the Chief Presidency Magistrate, Madras ;

(*b*) whether the search warrant was issued in consequence of an order of the Government of Burma forfeiting the books ;

(*c*) whether the Burma Government sent a copy of their order to this Government and, if so, whether this Government took any action on the same ;

(*d*) whether the Government of Madras have issued an order permitting the use of songs in schools recognized by the Government and, if so, the date and number of the order ;

(*e*) whether the order referred to in (*d*) is still in force or whether it has been cancelled ; and if so, when ;

(*f*) whether the Chief Presidency Magistrate took action of his own accord or on a requisition by the Police or otherwise ;

[28th January 1929

(g) whether the Chief Presidency Magistrate made any report as to why he has exercised his discretion in the face of the order of this Government permitting the use of the songs in recognized schools ;

(h) whether the Government have taken any action or intend to take any action to rescind the order of the Chief Presidency Magistrate ; and

(i) whether the Government have taken any steps to prevent such orders being issued by magistrates in mufassal towns ?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes. The notification was republished in the *Fort St. George Gazette.*

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) On a requisition by the Police.

(g) This Government have not issued any order permitting the use of Bharathi's songs in schools.

(h) Orders have been issued to the Police to return to the owners the copies of Bharathi's songs seized.

(i) The Government have issued instructions to the Police and the Criminal Investigation Department not to make any seizures.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to the answer to clause (g) of this question, may I ask the hon. the Law Member and also the hon. the Education Minister, if I may, whether on a reference, the Government have not permitted the use of Bharathi's songs in schools aided by the Government of Madras ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" My friend must ask the Education Minister."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" The answer is 'This Government have not issued any order, etc.' "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" No supplementary question can be put to a member of the Government on an answer given by another Member of the Government."

Return of the forfeited copies of Bharathi's songs to the owners.

* 1023-A *Q.*—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether in view of the withdrawal of the case of the Hindi Prachar Press against the Government for the forfeiture of copies of Bharathi's songs from the High Court, the Government propose to return the forfeited copies to the owners ;

(b) if so, when, and

(c) if not, why not ?

A.—(a) The Police have been asked to return the copies to the owners ;

(b) & (c) Do not arise.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask, with reference to (a), whether the Police have actually returned all the copies of the songs ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I do not know ; I believe they must have."